

CHRC

California Hydropower Reform Coalition
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March 28, 2003

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office
Attn: Docket No. 03-RPS-1078
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Via email: docket@energy.state.ca.us

RE: 03-RPS-1078 – Renewable Portfolio Standard Proceeding

The California Hydropower Reform Coalition (CHRC) thanks the California Energy Commission for the opportunity to comment on the implementation of California's Renewable Portfolio Standard and New Renewable Facilities Program.

The CHRC is an association of 25 river conservation and recreation organizations working to reduce the impact of California's hydroelectric facilities on its river resources. CHRC supports policies that promote clean and renewable electrical generation in California. We are pleased that the RPS program places strict limits on the types of hydropower facilities eligible for program benefits. While the water powering hydro projects is renewed each year by the hydrologic cycle, fish and wildlife species and fragile river ecosystems in California have been severely impacted by hydro projects.

The CEC poses specific questions about definitions and implementation of the small hydro provisions. CHRC asks leave to file specific answers to these questions in a supplemental filing next week, but at this time simply states our strong position that this program not subsidize any hydro development that changes the quantity, timing, or quality of streamflow in California's rivers.

Thank you for considering these initial comments, and don't hesitate to contact me at (510) 644-2900 x105 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephen M. Wald, CHRC Director
On behalf of
California Hydropower Reform Coalition

CHRC Steering Committee:

**American Rivers, American Whitewater, California Outdoors, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance,
California Trout, Foothill Conservancy, Friends of the River, Natural Heritage Institute, Trout Unlimited**

A coalition of national, statewide and local organizations working to restore and enhance rivers in California through the federal hydropower relicensing process using collaboration, technical and scientific expertise, and the promotion of public involvement.